

Посветени на хуманността
МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ - ПЛОВДИВ
4002 Пловдив, бул. Васил Априлов № 15А



www.mu-plovdiv.bg

МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
ПЛОВДИВ
Вх. № Р-4949 / 1.2.08.2024 г.

Dedicated to humanity
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV
15A, Vasil Aprilov Blvd., 4002 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
Determined by Order No. R - 2302/03.07.2024
of the Deputy Rector, MU - Plovdiv
Prof. Dr. M. Tokmakova, MD, PhD

STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, MD, PhD, DSc
"Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda", Sofia

Subject: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the Higher Education Field 7. "Health and Sports", Professional Direction 7.1. "Medicine", Scientific specialty "General Surgery" /03.01.37/ for the needs of the Department of "Special Surgery", MU - Plovdiv, published in State Newspaper Vol.35/19, Apr, 2024.

Comment on the Procedure

By Order No. R-2302/03, July, 2024 of the Deputy Rector for Scientific and Research Activities of the Medical University - Plovdiv and on the basis of the current legal framework in the country (Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the scientific staff in the Republic of Bulgaria at the MU - Plovdiv and the Regulation for occupying the relevant academic position, adopted in the Regulations for the structure and activity of the MU - Plovdiv) I have been appointed as an external member of the Scientific Jury for the above-mentioned competition for the appointment of academic degree "Associate Professor".

A single candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition - chief assistant-professor Dr. Gancho Georgiev Kostov, MD, PhD. The candidate's documents have been examined by a committee, which has determined that they meet the conditions and requirements and he is admitted to participate in the competition.

I was assigned to prepare an opinion at the first meeting of the scientific jury, held on 12.07.2024.

I received a complete set of the candidate's documents in the established official way and on time.

The procedure for conducting the competition up to now and the deadlines, the materials provided to me, as well as the opinion prepared by me are fully in accordance with the requirements of the above-mentioned regulatory framework.

Brief biographical Data. Professional Development and Postgraduate Qualifications.

Dr. Gancho Georgiev Kostov was born on April 26, 1980 in Stara Zagora. In 2006, he completed his higher education at MU - Plovdiv. Dr. Kostov's professional career began as a resident in the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, Regional Hospital - Kazanlak (September, 2007 - September, 2008), after which he was a resident at the Third Clinic of Surgery, "St. George" UMBAL, Plovdiv (October, 2008 - November, 2013). Dr. Gancho Kostov became a member of the

surgical team of the University Hospital "Kaspela" – Plovdiv in January 2014 and he is so to the present. The candidate's academic development also took place in parallel with the professional development. He has been a part-time assistant (from 2017 to 2022) and in 2022 he gained the title of "Chief assistant-professor" at the Department of "Special Surgery", MU - Plovdiv.

In 2014, Dr. Kostov acquired a specialty in Surgery. His pursuit of constant professional development and improvement is evidenced by his participation in numerous qualifying postgraduate courses and specializations. All of them are in leading national and international centers and are in the field of laparoscopic surgery and endocrine surgery (University Hospital "Kaspela"), ultrasound-assisted liver surgery (University Hospital Humanitas, Milan), mammology (Istanbul, Turkey), liver and pancreatic surgery (Military Medical Academy, Sofia), ultrasound (MU - Plovdiv), laparoscopic adrenal surgery (Kliniken Essen-Mitte, Essen, Germany). Dr. Kostov was certified as an assistant and later as a console surgeon with the Da Vinci robotic system.

Scientific and Research Activities - General Characteristics

The scientific and research interests of Dr. Gancho Kostov, PhD, are diverse and this is confirmed by the big number of papers with which he participated in the current competition. In summary, the scientific activities of the candidate can be systematized in several main areas:

1. PhD thesis with an abstract on the role of the protective ileostomy in low rectal resections and three full-text articles related to the topic of the PhD thesis for the "PhD" degree (they have already been peer-reviewed and are not subject to consideration in this statement);

2. Monograph on "Laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair"

3. Full-text articles in journals and books and abstract books of scientific events - a total of 56:

✓ 25 in English, of which 9 in magazines with IF

✓ 31 in Bulgarian.

4. Participation in university scientific projects - two:

✓ "Pilot study on the role of the epitranscriptome and the N6-adenosine methylation complex in the tumorigenesis of colorectal carcinoma, Project No. DPDP-10/2018

✓ "Pilot personalized transcriptional and mutational analysis in colorectal carcinoma", Project No. HO-02/2013

In 35 of the scientific works (62.5%), Dr. Gancho Kostov, MD, PhD is the first or independent author, which proves his active participation in these studies.

Scientific contributions. Quotes. Impact factor.

Thematically, the contributions from the works of Dr. Gancho Kostov, MD are of a scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied nature and can be divided into the following three main directions:

1. Endocrine surgery

The candidate has conducted research on a number of important problems and debatable points in the field of endocrine and in particular thyroid surgery, such as volume of operative intervention in thyroid carcinoma, the advantages and disadvantages of total thyroidectomy and prophylactic central cervical lymph node dissection recommended by some guidelines and the opposite approach (so-called "conservative" methods). Studies and conclusions on the incidence rates of specific morbidity in this field of surgery are of extremely practical utility.

2. General surgery.

The technique for prosthetics of the portal vein with an autologous jugular graft in duodeno-hemipancreatectomy is somewhat in common with the previous direction. Such a procedure requires the participation of an experienced pancreatic surgeon as well as an experienced thyroid surgeon in the team.

The studies on two of the "most common" surgical diseases - acute appendicitis and acute cholecystitis, which occupy a major share in the operative activity of every single surgical department both in our country and abroad, have been in-depth and profound. The author's modern and

critical view on the choice of the right tactics, based on the diagnostic-treatment algorithm, the specific morbidity and mortality, although rare, proves the topicality of the topics.

This direction also includes publications on the treatment of hemorrhoidal disease using the "Longo" method, the low rectal anastomosis leakage, the defining of the risk factors and the creation of own predictive scoring system for risk assessment and stratification.

3. Minimally invasive surgery.

This direction is a logical moment in the development and evolution of the candidate's creative pursuits in recent years. On the one hand, it is dictated by the global trends for increasingly large-scale implementation of the mini-invasive approach in abdominal surgery. On the other hand, the fact that Dr. Kostov is a member of the team with the largest number and complexity of robot-assisted abdominal procedures in the country explains these interests. The transition from benign pathology (laparoscopic splenectomies, hernioplasty, treatment of hiatal hernias, etc.) to minimally invasive and robot-assisted oncological surgery is also impressive. In this sense the sharing of experience in robotic surgery is beneficial to all colleagues who have the technical equipment for this type of intervention and practice it.

Dr. Gancho Kostov's scientific works have 39 citations in refereed and indexed publications in Scopus/Web of Science and in one peer-reviewed book. The total impact factor of the attached articles is 22.45. A high IF as well as a relatively high number of citations prove the high scientific value of the candidate's studies.

Educational and Teaching Activity

Dr. Gancho Kostov's teaching activities over the past 3 years vary in the range of 232-238 hours/academic year, (seminars with English-speaking medical students) and the total auditory and non-auditory activities are 401-565 hours/academic year (certificate from MU - Plovdiv from 23.05.2024). The candidate was also the supervisor of the internship of three surgical interns in the same period.

Admirations are aroused by the fact that, despite his serious diagnostic and therapeutic activities and scientific research workload, chief assistant-professor Dr. G. Kostov is fully devoted to sharing knowledge to students and interns.

Conclusion

Dr. Gancho Kostov, MD, PhD is a surgeon with 16 years of clinical practice and 7 years of teaching experience.

Based on my personal impressions, I can say that he is a good and ethical colleague who enjoys authority in the surgical community in our country, among his patients and students.

The self-assessment report for the fulfillment of the national science metric requirements and the specific ones of the MU-Plovdiv for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" certifies that Dr. Gancho Kostov, MD, PhD covers 2062.8 points which exceeds the minimum required 810.

The scientific works submitted for reviewing are original in nature, with no evidence of plagiarism and/or repetition of the evidentiary material (confirmed by the declaration signed by the candidate).

In conclusion, I believe that Dr. Gancho Kostov, PhD, is highly experienced as a surgeon, a scientist and a university assistant.

All of the above gives me reason to recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively for awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Gancho Georgiev Kostov, MD, PhD for which I confidently give my positive vote.

Statement signed by:

/Prof. Dr. Kiril Dragarov, MD, PhD, DSc/

Aug, 08, 2024

Sofia

Залчено на основание
Чл.5 §1, 6, "B" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679